

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/831,071

Examiner

Benjamin E. Lanier

Applicant(s)

ISHIBASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 28 August 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 396-433.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed 28 August 2007 cancels claims 1-395 and adds claims 396-433. Applicant's amendment has been fully considered and entered.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an email message sent by Michael Kelly on 18 October 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Change "an" to "the" on line 16 of claim 396.

Change "individual" to "content" on line 16 of claim 396.

Change "individual" to "content" on line 21 of claim 396.

Change "an" to "the" on line 21 of claim 396.

Add "further" before "comprises" on line 2 of claim 399.

Add "further" before "comprises" on line 2 of claim 400.

Change "data the" to "data to the" on line 4 of claim 405.

Change "individual" to "content" on line 15 of claim 410.

Change "individual" to "content" on line 8 of claim 422.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 396-433 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed invention generally concerns a content distribution system wherein identification information is added to the content prior to the content being encrypted with a content key. The content key is encrypted with an individual key, which is turn encrypted, along with the identification information, by a distribution key held by the intended recipient. The encrypted content, encrypted content key, and the encrypted individual key/identification information pair are transmitted to the intended recipient. Upon receipt the intended recipient is able to obtain the content by decrypting the individual key with the stored distribution key, decrypt the content key with the decrypted individual key, and finally decrypt the content with the decrypted content key. The intended recipient is then able to verify the content by comparing the identification information added to the content with the identification information that was encrypted with the individual key.

5. The closest prior art, Venkatesan (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,999) discloses a content protection system using watermarking wherein audio files are protected using embedded watermarks (Col. 10, lines 13-14, 23-26). The watermark includes a product identification value (PID) and a publisher (vendor) identification value (VID)(Figure 5, 520 & Col. 13, lines 26-30 & Col. 24, lines 31-33), which meets the limitation of information sending apparatus comprises means for adding said identification information to said contents data in order to make a comparison with encrypted identification information. The publisher generates a license for the content to be protected that is distributed to the requesting client (Figure 5, 550). The license includes the PID and VID (Col. 24, lines 17-34) and is encrypted with the public key of the

Art Unit: 2132

requesting client (Col. 30, lines 38-40), which meets the limitation of encrypting identification information. The watermarked content and license, are then distributed by the publisher to a requesting user, where the watermark content is downloaded to the client PC (Col. 14, lines 17-19, 37-40 & Figure 5), which meets the limitation of sending the encrypted identification information and encrypted content data with identification information. The client PC then decrypts the license using the secret key corresponding the public key (Col. 31, lines 48-50).

When a user attempts to access the watermark content, a verifier compares the VID and PID values contained in the header of the license to the actual VID and PID values extracted from the watermark embedded in the object to determine if identical matches exist between the actual and expected values of the PID, and between the actual and expected values of the VID (Col. 25, lines 6-12), which meets the limitation of decrypting the encrypted identification information, decrypting the encrypted content, and comparing the identification information. Venkatesan does not disclose or make obvious that the above mentioned elements are encrypted with keys in the same fashion claimed, or that the identification information is encrypted along with the same key that encrypts the content key.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2132

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin E. Lanier whose telephone number is 571-272-3805.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Benjamin E. Lanier